

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 ARA-06 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 566

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS REACTION TO END OF PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPCON

1. IN APRIL 17 EDITORIAL REACTION TO END OF PRODUCER/
CONSUMER PREPCON, SOME SWISS FRENCH-LANGUAGE PAPERS,
NOTABLY JOURNAL DE GENEVE, TOOK LINE THAT FAILURE OF
CONFERENCE WAS DUE TO US INTRANSIGENCE AND THAT SWITZERLAND
HAD MADE MISTAKE AND RISKED DAMAGING ITS TRADITIONAL
NEUTRALITY BY JOINING IEA. IN SHARP CONTRAST, OTHER SWISS
PAPERS, PARTICULARLY PRESTIGIOUS NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG
IN SIGNED EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR FRED LUCHSINGER,
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PLACED MAJOR BLAME ON FRENCH FOR FAILING MAKE ADEQUATE

PREPARATIONS PRIOR PREPCON AND ENDORSED BASIC STRATEGY OF DIALOGUE COUPLED WITH CONSUMER COUNTRY SOLIDARITY AND ONGOING EFFORT CONSERVE ENERGY, DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR STABLE PRICE TRENDS.

2. ON CONVERSATION APRIL 17 CHIEF OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (FOREIGN OFFICE) DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (ZWAHLEN) SAID THAT SWISS GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS REASONS FOR PREPCON BREAKUP AND IS EVEN MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER OF WISDOM OF SWISS MEMBERSHIP IN IEA. ZWAHLEN NOTED THAT SWISS FULLY SATISFIED WITH ENDERS/DAVIGNON STATEMENTS FOLLOWING END OF MEETING AS WELL AS WITH IEA GB COORDINATION MECHANISMS COUPLED WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH US AND OTHER PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS. ZWAHLEN SAID THAT POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS DIVISION OF COMMERCE REGARDS PREPCON DEADLOCK AS UNFORTUNATE BUT FAR BETTER THAN ENTERING FULL CONFERENCE WITH BASIC DIVERGENICES BETWEEN OPEC/LDC AND IEA POSITIONS. WHILE THIS COULD NOT BE SAID TO PUBLIC,ZWAHLEN THOUGHT THAT END OF PREPCON MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER INSIST ON ONGOING NEED TAKE CONSERVATION MEASURES AND THUS OVERCOME COMPLACENCY WHICH APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE WITH PROCEDURES MIGHT HAVE CREATED.

3. AT SAME TIME, SWISS CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT CONTACT WITH PRODUCERS ESSENTIAL AND HOPE THAT WITH FURTHER CAREFUL AND SLOW PREPARATIONS NEXT EFFORT MIGHT HAVE GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS. SWISS HAVE NO PARTICULAR STRATEGY TO SUGGEST BUT WILL BE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITIES CAREFULLY BEFORE NEXT GB SESSION.

4. SWISS ARE ALSO CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS IMPROVE THEIR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OIL PRODUCERS, INCLUDING CURRENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BY DIVISION OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR JOLLES AND NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT LEUTWILER (SEPTEL).
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